

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (original): Method for removing at least one constituent from a solution, comprising:

- forming a liquid mixture by bringing together said solution and a particulate seed material under conditions or in the presence of one or more substances which cause the constituent to be removed to crystallize out on the surface of the seed material; and
- separating the seed material having the constituent to be removed crystallized out thereon from the liquid mixture by passing the liquid mixture through a filter, wherein the pore size of the filter is greater than the particle size of the seed material.

Claim 2. (original): Method according to claim 1, wherein the particle size of the seed material is from 0.1 to 50 μm .

Claim 3. (currently amended): Method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the pore size of the filter is equal to or less than 150 μm .

Claim 4. (currently amended): Method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-3~~, wherein the particle size of the seed material is from 5 to 25 μm .

Claim 5. (previously deleted).

Claim 6. (currently amended): Method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-4~~, wherein one or more substances cause the constituent to be removed to crystallize out on the surface of the seed material.

Claim 7. (currently amended): Method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-6~~, wherein the seed material comprises an inorganic material selected from the group consisting of a mineral clay types, silica particles, silicates or diatomes.

Claim 8. (currently amended): Method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-6~~, wherein the seed material comprises an organic material selected from the group consisting of cellulose, stearate and lactose.

Claim 9. (currently amended): Method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-8~~, which method is used to prepare particles with a distinct morphology, size distribution and polymorphology.

Claim 10. (currently amended): Method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-9~~, wherein the solution is water or an aqueous solution.

Claim 11. (original): Method according to claim 10, which method is used to soften water and wherein the pH of the solution is being increased to cause CaCO_3 to precipitate on the seed material.

Claim 12. (currently amended): Method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-10~~, which method is used to remove heavy metal ions from the solution by way of crystallizing out metal salt or metal hydroxide on the surface of the seed material.

Claim 13. (currently amended): Method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-10~~, which method is used to remove anions from the solution by way of crystallizing out a salt of the anions on the surface of the seed material.

Claim 14. (currently amended): Method for preparing a particulate material, wherein use is made a method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-13~~, and wherein the particulate

material comprises the particulate seed material and the constituent that has crystallized out on the surface of the seed material.

Claim 15. (original): Particulate material obtainable by the method according to claim 14.

Claim 16. (original): Apparatus for removing at least one constituent from a solution comprising a vessel, one or more filters that are located inside the vessel, at least one inlet for introducing a liquid mixture which comprises the solution from which the constituent needs to be removed, a particulate seed material on the surface of which the constituent to be removed will crystallize out and optionally one or more substances that cause the constituent to be removed to crystallize out on the surface of the seed material, at least one outlet for discharging the solution from which the constituent is removed which outlet(s) is (are) connected to the one or more filters, and an outlet for withdrawing seed material having the constituent to be removed crystallized out thereon.